

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 27, 2006. Claims 6 to 11 and 27 to 41 are pending in the application, of which Claims 6, 27, 32 and 37 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 to 9, 11, 27 to 30, 32 to 35 and 37 to 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,498 (Shima). Claims 10, 31, 36 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,237,923 (Williams). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a print control apparatus wherein a spooler, a spool file manager and the generating unit are included in the print control apparatus. This arrangement allows the print control apparatus to cause a conventional printer having only interpreting input data and printing functions to work as an intelligent printer. In addition, a specialized transmission unit is included in the print control apparatus to transmit generated data to the printer.

Turning now to the claims, amended independent Claim 6 is directed to a print control apparatus as a host computer which is connected to a printing apparatus through an interface and which generates print data described in the page description language to be interpreted by the printing apparatus. The printing apparatus comprises a spooler that saves data to be printed, which is issued from an application, together with a designated number of copies of a document to be printed based on the saved data; a spool file manager that checks if a print instruction is a test print instruction, that changes the number of copies to 1 when the test print is instructed, and that outputs the data to be

printed saved in the spooler together with the number of copies of documents to be printed in response to the print instruction for printing at the print apparatus; a generation unit that reads the data to be printed with the number of copies of documents to be outputted by said spool file manager and generates the print data; and a transmission unit that transmit the data generated by said generating unit to the printing apparatus, wherein, when a test print is instructed, said generation unit generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the number of copies which has been changed into 1 for a test print, when print of the document is instructed after the print data for the test print generated by said generating unit has been transmitted to the printing apparatus, said generating unit reads the data to be printed saved by the spooler and generates the print data which is described in the page description language.

In contrast, Shima discloses a printer that analyzes print information received from a host computer to recognize a print specification (for example, a print of multiple copies, a print in the reverse order and a test print) of the print information and determines a print execution method based upon the print specification.

As shown in Fig. 14 of Shima et al, the intermediate data is converted into image and the image is printed. However, the procedure shown in Fig. 14 is performed by the printer whereas the claimed invention is directed to a print control apparatus prepared separately from a printer. Thus, the print control apparatus defined in claim 6 causes a conventional printer having only interpreting input data and printing functions to work as an intelligent printer.

In comparison to that, Shima discloses a printer having a test printing function. If the test printing is finished in success, the printer subsequently prints the remaining copies.

The process shown in Fig. 14 is performed by the printer. The printer controller connected to the printer only transmits the intermediate print information corresponding to a document to be printed to that printer. This, if a memory capacity of the printer is insufficient for the transmitted information, the printer cannot print the same document again.

In addition, as Shima does not disclose control of the intelligent printing process being controlled in the print control apparatus, Shima fails to disclose or suggest a transmission unit that transmit the data generated by said generating unit to the printing apparatus, wherein, when a test print is instructed, said generation unit generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the number of copies which has been changed into 1 for a test print, when print of the document is instructed after the print data for the test print generated by said generating unit has been transmitted to the printing apparatus, said generating unit reads the data to be printed saved by the spooler and generates the print data which is described in the page description language.

In light of the deficiencies of Shima as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 27, 32 and 37 are directed to an apparatus, method and computer program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, respectively, corresponding to Claim 6 as amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 27, 32 and 37 are now also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the

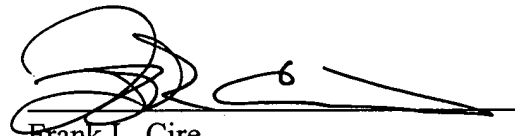
same reasons. However, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the entire application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. However, if the Examiner does not concur, Applicant requests that the Examiner conduct a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative regarding this case.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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